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July 21, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the FCC:

Our community of Hollywood, SC is in many ways a case study on the pressing need for rural broadband. We are not only rural but a low-income, predominantly African American community where broadband access is severely limited and home broadband connections are rare.

Hollywood residents have the appetite, but not the access. For many of us, the public Internet terminals at the local community college are the main source of broadband access. But time on these terminals is sharply limited because there is always a line of people waiting for their turns. This is no way to explore the myriad possibilities of broadband.

This broadband shortage could be ended if the Commission moves ahead and approves the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. AT&T's commitment to provide advanced wireless broadband access to 97 percent of the country means traditionally under-served communities and regions like ours would no longer be last in line for broadband. Access would come through the air rather than through fiber-optic cables, which have an unfortunate history of only reaching low-income minority neighborhoods and rural areas as a last priority.

The merger is not a panacea for Hollywood or our neighbors here in southern Charleston County. Its practical benefits, however, support the idea that approval of the merger would definitely be in the public interest.

Sincerely,



Jacquelyn S. Heyward
Mayor

